

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2012

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Janice Dallas, Rachel Buonopane, Molly Flueckiger, Susan James, John Thompson, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Heidi Hample

Others Present: Jack Jones, A.D.A. Coordinator
J. Glushko, Planning Dept.
Scott Smith, Transportation/Bike advisory committee
Marion Louise Carroll, resident
Christine Ilacqua (honorary member)

Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2012 reviewed and accepted.

Sidewalk Bylaw (continued)

Current bylaw, "No person shall operate any vehicle excepting children's carriages and triecycles upon any sidewalk".

Team discussed current bylaw and how it does not truly specify vehicles. Marion presented her process of proposals and research that she has performed on the subject.

Marion's original proposal- "No person shall operate any vehicle upon any sidewalk, excepting children's toys and vehicles used as a reasonable accommodation for disability. Vehicles shall be under control at all times. Pedestrians shall have the right of way on any sidewalk".

Revised proposal- "No person shall operate any vehicle upon any sidewalk, excepting

- a) Vehicles used as a reasonable accommodation for disability, including devices used as passive transport for infants
- b) Children's vehicular toys, when used under adult supervision"

Scott read his proposal (paraphrasing)- No person shall operate any vehicle upon any sidewalk, unless it is a device used as a reasonable modification no wider than 30 inches, no emissions, and operated at a reasonable speed (ordinary walking speed). Persons using mobility aid shall have rights and responsibilities of a pedestrian.

Some suggestions from commission:

- warning to not be too specific in our wording
- approval of clause about pedestrian right of way

-question of obtaining permits/ further discussion of how that would be difficult for visitors from other towns

-make new bylaw vs amending current bylaw

Idea of how to present to town: To advance the bylaw to reflect the current needs of today's society, reflecting the various modes of transportation that are now available.

TO DO:

Invite Juliana Rice (Town Council) to future meeting

J. Glushko to write up suggestions for proposal

Decide to rewrite or amend current bylaw

Timelines:

- 1. this fall communicate with other groups in town (police, Transportation Advisory Committee, Bike Advisory Committee). Commission vote to support or not support proposal.**
- 2. Get on Town Warrant by December**
- 3. Get it passed by April**

Curb Cuts

Jack informs that the town has put out to bid to contractors for additional curb cuts. Hope to be signed by August/September. They will continue to focus on locations of where there are no current curb cuts. Jack has been given a list, but will continue to accept more locations as they are located by this Commission.

John noted that as road repairs are performed, no repairs are made around curb cuts. John/Jack to email Michael regarding these issues (specifically at Mass Ave/Mt. Vernon) to find out if these repairs can be performed and out of what budget will the money come from.

Town Day

September 15, 2012

A newsletter will be put together and distributed. Discussion of ideas for articles:

- 1. A who's who of commission members**
- 2. Accomplishments this past year**
- 3. Activities coming up**

Volunteers for the day to work at the booth: Jack, John, Rachel...others to confirm. Items to give away (pens, jar openers for examples). Opportunities for town residents to sit in wheelchairs and ride on the bricks.

TO DO:

Look at brochure for adjustment suggestions

Email Jack with ideas for giveaways will be decided 8/15

Submit draft of articles for newsletter by 8/15 and final by 8/30

New Business

Molly officially Appointed to the Commission on Disability by the Town Selectmen

Maureen brought in an article from the Boston Globe discussing a program in Boston that allows families to alert Fire/emergency departments about a residence with a person with a disability. The article presented the positive of how this would help emergency workers to address people with disabilities (physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, and behavioral) appropriately. Commission discussed having the list be voluntary, and needs to be secure (as it contains specific and private information). Question of the training available for emergency workers regarding appropriate response to people with disabilities to prevent escalation or inappropriate response.

Robbins Farm Park- follow up regarding access for public events, particularly the fireworks. There are no handicap spots set up along the roadway. The curb cut is at the bottom of the hill, not near entrance to park. Area blocked off with cones “for emergency vehicles” is blocking access to walk, park. Noted that when emergency vehicles arrived at site that they did not use the blocked off area.

Suggestions: temporary handicap parking, temporary ramps/surfaces to make access through the grass accessible. Commission discussed how temporary ramps could be purchased by the town and used for multiple events throughout the year at various locations.

Jack received a complaint about the dog park. People are continuing to struggle to get across the rice stones. The stones got mixed and the ones that were supposed to form a solid surface did not do so. Contractor is to follow to remediate the problem.

Playgrounds- group to review accessibility to town playgrounds. Suggestion to look at Pierce Elementary Playground, good access.

Topics to be continued at next meeting:

Sidewalk bylaw proposal

Town Day- finalizing giveaway items and articles for newsletter

Curb Cuts

Dog park

Disability registry for emergency workers

Group guidelines during meeting- respecting each others thought, opinions and statements and using them to work together